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THE MONTANA MAVERICK

A publication of Warm Springs State Hospital, Warm Springs, Montana

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FIFTY-FIVE GROUPS TOUR THE HOSPITAL DURING 1969-1970 SCHOOL YEAR

Although there were only eight tours of groups in October, November and December of 1969, the pace of tours rapidly increased after the first of the year, and a total of fifty-five groups were conducted on tours of the hospital during the period ending June 1, 1970. These groups ranged in size from five to as many as seventy. The majority of the tours were made up of groups of high school students who were taking courses in sociology, psychology, contemporary world affairs or similar subjects. We were also pleased to have tours of such groups as the women of home demonstration organizations, homemaker's clubs, Vista workers and social work practicum students from the Universities. There were over fifteen hundred and fifty individuals taken on conducted tours. In addition to these organized groups there have been a number of smaller tours taken on an individual basis by various staff members.

An examination of the record of tours would indicate that the majority of the tours are for groups who live in the western part of the state. There were only a few groups who came from the eastern part of Montana. This is quite understandable in view of the distance that has to be traveled by these visitors.

The matter of conducting tours through the State Hospital is one which brings many differing opinions from various people. It is possible to find, within our own staff, some who feel that we should not conduct tours at all and those who feel that it has a very positive value. It would seem that the opinion held generally depends on whether or not tours are considered as a public relations tool, based on the fact that we are a tax supported public institution, and that the people of Montana should be aware of the facility that exists here, the uses to which it can be placed, and also some of the problems which the institution faces. Those who oppose tours generally oppose them on the basis that they feel an interest in the patients' right to privacy and the patients' dignity. In order to hit a happy medium between these two extremes, it is generally the practice in tours to limit them to a presentation of the program and the problems of the institution, and a tour of facilities without placing the patients on display.

It has been interesting to note that the various groups that have toured the hospital have shown the same variation that has been mentioned above, in that some of them are quite satisfied with the tour that is provided, which consists of a lecture and a tour of a few of the typical wards at the hospital, while others raise questions as to patients, patient problems, diagnosis and specifics in terms of treatment.

Based on the number of requests and the apparent interests of the various groups who have toured the hospital, it would appear that conducting tours can be an extremely valuable public relations tool, and perhaps more emphasis should be placed on this as a means of making the citizens of Montana aware of this resource to them.

Gregory Jacobs, A.C.S.W.
Tour Coordinator

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MONTANA ALCOHOLISM SERVICES CENTER
AND TREATMENT AND REHABILITATION PROGRAM

Today, ALCOHOLISM is considered to be the number one Public Health Problem in the United States. It ranks with other major diseases such as Cancer, Heart Trouble and Diabetis.

We are very fortunate in the State of Montana to have available to residents of Montana a fine Alcoholism Treatment and Rehabilitation Program. Many of our neighboring states do not have a treatment facility such as ours. The ATR Program has been in effect for the past twelve years.

Just one year ago - July 1969 - the ATR Program was moved to Galen State Hospital. The Alcoholism Services Center and ATR Program are still under the capable direction of the Department of Institutions and Dr. Stanley J. Rogers, Superintendent of Warm Springs State Hospital.

The procedure for admission to the ATR Program is usually on a Voluntary Commitment basis: i.e. - an application by the individual concerned and certified to by a licensed physician. See your County Attorney for details and assistance. Admission is for residents of the State of Montana only.

The alcoholic patient must first be admitted to Warm Springs State Hospital for de-toxification, evaluation and go through the Alcoholic Clinic there before being transferred to Galen. The program at Galen is an education program in which we try to teach the alcoholic that he can function in society without alcohol. The ATR Program consists of lectures twice daily by doctors, psychiatrists, social workers, vocational rehabilitation workers, clergy and the counselors. The present staff consists of one coordinator, five male counselors and one female counselor - all of whom are recovered alcoholics.

It is an interesting fact to note that since moving these facilities to Galen, our alcoholic patient load has almost doubled. We have been averaging between forty to fifty patients and do have facilities for eighty-five patients. Our highest house count was sixty-two patients. I am sure that with the ever increasing public education and knowledge of the disease of alcoholism and the facilities available for treatment, we will soon be running with a full load.

If any of you are interested in visiting us and looking over the ATR facilities at Galen, we have an Open AA Meeting every other Saturday night at 7:30 P.M. The public is invited to attend. The meetings are conducted by visiting AA Groups from around the state - and many of our former patients, now leading productive and useful lives as members of society in their communities, come back to lend a helping hand to the patients here on the program. They will urge him to contact and attend the local AA Groups in his or her community upon leaving the hospital.

Ed Gendle
Alcoholic Counselor

PROGRESS MADE ON COMPREHENSIVE CENTER

In the last issue of The Maverick, the staff of the Division of Mental Hygiene briefly outlined the following three items: First, the basis for the formation of Montana's five mental health regions; second, the legal basis (Senate Bill 85) which enabled the establishment of Regional Mental Health Boards; and third, the five essential services which must be provided by a Regional Comprehensive Community Mental Health Center.

In follow-up of the above, this article will briefly outline the proposed program for Region I and the progress being made towards the establishment of a comprehensive center. The Region I Mental Health Board consists of Mrs. Beverly Van Canagan, Missoula County (chairman); Mr. Howard Hammer, Ravalli County (vice-chairman); Mr. William Knapton, Flathead County (secretary); Mr. Wilson Burley, Lake County (treasurer); Mr. Pat Delong, Sanders County; Mrs. Edna Frey, Mineral County; and Mr. Austin Frasier, Lincoln County. All of the seven counties which make up Region I have elected to participate in the mental health center's program.

Last year, a Federal staffing grant application was completed and submitted to the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare. The proposed program called for the hiring of fourteen professional mental health persons and nine supportive persons. The presently functioning Mental Hygiene Clinic operating out of Missoula would be incorporated into the center and become administratively responsible to the Mental Health Board. The twenty-three new positions requested would be in addition to the present clinic staff.

The Region I program will provide in-patient and emergency services for the entire Region through facilities developed at St. Patrick's Hospital in Missoula and Kalispell General Hospital in Kalispell. Missoula will act as the hub for the three southern counties in the Region while Kalispell will perform the same function for the four northern counties. With the exception of Mineral County, all counties in the Region will have either a psychiatric social worker or psychologist residing in and providing services within the individual counties. Because of the rural over-all nature of the region a decentralized program was felt best to meet the needs and therefore services will not all be under one roof. The exact locations for other aspects of the program such as administrative offices, out-patient facilities, day care, children's services have not been determined and are presently being investigated.

Although the staffing grant application was approved, federal funds have not been available to finance the program. The Center was to commence January 1, 1970, but it is possible that funds may not be available for at least another year, if then. The Mental Health Board is presently investigating the possibility of going ahead with a limited program using county and state monies if possible until such a time that the federal funds come through.

James W. Scriver, ACSW and
Jack K. Balcombe, ACSW
Community Services Consultants,
Division of Mental Hygiene

CHANGE AND PROGRESS

Warm Springs State Hospital was founded by a group of doctors in the year 1877, as a private institution. The state of Montana purchased it in 1912 and operated it under various names until January 1, 1968, when the official name was changed to Warm Springs State Hospital. Prior to the existance of the hospital, a store and hotel were established in the year 1866. Later this became the property of the state and was operated by various proprietors under lease agreement until it was demolished in 1964. The last proprietor of the old store building was Andy Francisco, who, at the present time, operates a store and motel in a new building located on Highway 10 adjacent to the hospital.

The Electric Shop Building, demolished in 1970, was a familiar landmark to many veteran hospital employees. This building was built as a doctor's residence in 1866. Originally it was constructed of square hewn logs and later was covered with conventional siding. This made it appear to be a frame building. It is interesting to note that many old time square nails were found in the debris of demolition. The Doctor's Cottage, demolished in 1968, was a two story building of several private rooms constructed in 1892 as a dormitory for single doctors. Later on, the occupancy was changed to include any unmarried hospital employees desiring a room on campus. Residence H83, which was located adjacent to the highway, on the main entrance was demolished in 1969. This building was constructed in 1897 and was a familiar landmark to those visiting the hospital often. Two buildings were demolished in 1969 that are uncommon in this day. In later years we called them multiple garages. Originally they were built as carriage sheds. For several years they were used as garages, but the old carriage type doors were so narrow, access was difficult for modern day vehicles. One of these buildings was removed because it was damaged beyond repair by an accidental fire and the other was removed to make way for the new Boiler Plant. The old Upholstery Shop was demolished in 1969. The original purpose of this building is lost in antiquity, but at various times it has served as a carriage repair shop, blacksmith shop and paint shop. Various other buildings of less consequence such as construction sheds, shelter sheds and implement shops have been removed in recent years. They were removed mainly because their function was no longer necessary and their demolition would remove a hazard and in the meantime improve the appearance of the campus. I am sure many of us are gripped by nostalgia when we become conscious of the vacant lot once occupied by the Montana Building. The second and third floors of this great old building served many years as housing for many employees. The first floor was occupied by the sewing room, post office, barber shop and canteen. The Plumbing Shop was operated out of the Montana Building basement for several years. Many a bitter word was uttered by plumber and patient alike as they lugged heavy loads up and down the steps. The most recent demolition project was the removal of twenty units of what was called Victory Housing. They were located between the Administration Building and Receiving Hospital. These had served the hospital as employee housing since 1946. These units were purchased as surplus from the Federal Government and had been located originally in Anaconda. Part of one of these units has been moved to the

Maintenance Complex and will be used as Grounds Crew Headquarters. Demolition, especially of buildings we look upon as landmarks, is an unpleasant task and I am sure that the Maintenance Department does not relish this type of work. New buildings are something else and it is a joy to see a new building or facility under construction that will aid the patient or afford them greater comfort and pleasure while they are with us.

The Multi-Purpose Building is a very beneficial facility of many aspects and serves patients and employees alike. This very useful building was completed in 1968 and filled a need existing for many years at the hospital. The large gymnasium and theater also serves as a church. This fine building also contains the Chaplains' offices, patients' library, coffee shop as well as a myriad of Activity Therapy Functions. In 1967 some new modern housing was completed, namely two physicians' houses and a male employees' dormitory. These are pleasant appearing brick veneered buildings that are functional, comfortable and a credit to any campus. A new and much needed facility now under construction but not showing on the surface, is the new steam and hot water distribution system. This project entails the replacement of more than 2,500 feet of steam line and an equal amount of compensate return lines, hot water lines and hot water circulating lines. This system is encased in tunnels underground that connect most of the buildings on campus. This project is actually a replacement of an antiquated worn out system that has served the hospital well for over fifty years. The old system had reached a point where cost of maintenance was excessive and lack of dependability could have been a hazard to hospital residents. A new Boiler Plant is almost completed that will furnish heating and processing steam to most of the hospital buildings via the new distribution system.

Near the end of May ground was broken for the Annex Replacement Project. This new and desperately needed facility will have beds for forty-six physically ill patients, including isolation and intensive care. The building will be air conditioned and in addition to patient rooms will have the Laboratory, X-Ray and Dental Suite. Construction time for this project is 360 calendar days. At the present time a new project entitled maximum security building is being programmed. It is hoped that this project will be started this year. As a final thought, I would like to mention that the canopy atop the Warm Springs Mound has been renovated and is now a credit to our campus. I hope patients and employees will be able to enjoy this venerable landmark for many years to come.

Charles R. Martin
Maintenance Supervisor